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· INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Interional Application No PC1/F12004/000678

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B01L3/00 G01N F16K11/08 B01D29/66 G01N1/28 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 B01L G01N F16K B01D A61B A61M Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X WO 02/04921 A2 (COULTER INTERNATIONAL 1-13,17CORP) 17 January 2002 (2002-01-17) Α page 11, line 1 - page 23, line 24; 14-16.18 figures 1-4; example 8 X US 6 106 483 A (GUIRGUIS ET AL) 1-13.1722 August 2000 (2000-08-22) column 2, line 65 - column 4, line 15 column 8, line 32 - column 10, line 8; figures 7-12 X US 4 581 014 A (MILLERD ET AL) 14,16 8 April 1986 (1986-04-08) column 9, line 36 - column 12, line 52; figures 9-18 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. ° Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 28 January 2005 24/02/2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl. Tiede, R Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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